

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PINS, EAID, EMIN, BY, US, OVIP (JAMES, CHARLES A.)

SUBJECT: VISIT TO BURUNDI OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JAMES

SUMMARY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS CHARLES A. JAMES SPENT ALMOST TWO DAYS IN BURUNDI MARCH 13 TO 15. UNEXPECTED ALL DAY CABINET MEETING MARCH 14 (ON NATIONAL BUDGET) FORCED CANCELLATION OF HIGH-LEVEL APPOINTMENTS, EXCEPT FOR LUNCHEON WITH FORMER BURUNDI AMBASSADOR TO U.S. AND UN TERENCE NSANZE (SOON DEPARTING AS AMBASSADOR TO PARIS). MARCH 15 MEETINGS WITH ECONOMIC PLANNING CHIEF BIHUTE AND FONOFF DIRECTOR GENERAL NDUWAYO PROVIDED USEFUL RUNDOWN OF BURUNDI PROBLEMS AND BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH U.S. LARGE RECEPTION FOR HIM ON MARCH 13 AND DINNER WITH DCM ON MARCH 14 ALLOWED JAMES TO MEET SEVERAL MINISTERS AND OTHER HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS LEADING MEMBERS OF UN, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY, AND FOREIGN BUSINESS CIRCLES. END SUMMARY.

1. LUNCHEON WITH NSANZE PROVED TO BE NO-HOLDS BARRED

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SESSION ON BURUNDI'S DOMESTIC ETHNIC PROBLEMS AND PAST UPHEAVALS,

IN WHICH NSANZE OFFERED STRONG APOLOGIA FOR OFFICIAL BURUNDI ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES. HE CLAIMES THAT PRESENT REGIME WAS DEDICATED TO EQUAL PLACE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR BOTH TUTSIS AND HUTUS, AND SAID THAT EXPANDING ECONOMY WOULD OPEN UP VISTAS FOR BOTH ETHNIC GROUPS. HE BLAMED PAST TROUBLES ON PRO-HUTU BIAS OF FOREIGNERS BEFORE INDEPENDENCE AND ON INORDINATE AMBITION OF FORMER HUTU ELITE TO SEIZE TOTAL POWER AND TO ELIMINATE ALL TUTSIS INDISCRIMINATELY. KILLINGS OF THOUSANDS (ADMITTEDLY MAINLY MHUTUS) IN 1972 "BY MISTAKE" CAME DURING ANARCHY OF MAY TO MID-JULY WHEN BURUNDI HAD NO GOVERNMENT TO CONTROL BANDS OF SOLDIERS AND TUTSI YOUTH, SEEKING REVENGE FOR PRIOR KILLINGS OF TUTSIS BY HUTUS. (EMBOFFS REBUTTED NSANZE ON THIS POINT, SINCE ALL EVIDENCE AT TIME INDICATED THERE WAS DEFINITE GUIDANCE FROM TOP OF REGIME TO ELIMINATE ALL HUTUS WITH MODICUM OF SECONDARY EDUCATION) NSANZE AGREED WITH EMBOFFS THAT SOUND FUTURE POLICY WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN RECRIMINATIONS OVER PAST, AND THAT PRESIDENT MICOMBERO SHOULD PROBABLY ACT MORE VIGOROUSLY IN PUBLIC TO CONVEY THEME OF NATIONAL COHESION WITH JUSTICE FOR ALL. NSANZE THOUGHT U.S. SHOULD DO MUCCY MORE TO AID BURUNDI ON BILATERAL OFFICIAL LEVEL, BUT WAS TOLD THAT MAIN NEED FOR BURUNDI WAS TO CONVINCE POTENTIAL AMERICAN INVESTORS IN NICKEL PROJECT THAT CURRENT REGIME SOCOAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES WOULD INSURE LONG TERM STABILITY. HE DEPLORED RECENT TROUBLES OVER EMBASSY TRAVEL, BUT CLAIMED SMALL COUNTRIES COULD NOT HELP BEING SUSPICIOUS OF BIG POWERS. LATTER SHOULD ACCEPT THIS PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM AND NOT THREATEN TO CUT OFF AID IN RETALIATION. NSANZE CLAIMS TO HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH MICOMBERO LATELY ON SEVERAL FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS, AND THIS CONTACT MAY HAVE PLAYED PART IN HIS ADVICE TO ME TO ASK FOR AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT IN COMING WEEKS.

2. WHEN FONMIN BIMAZUBUTE AT LAST MINUTE WAS UNABLE TO SEE JAMES, DIRGEN NDUWAYO 7(PROMOTED LATELY TO NUMBER TWO) TOOK OVER. HE SAID HE SPOKE FOR MINISTER IN WANTING BEST POSSIBLE BILATERAL RELATIONS. BURUNDI APPRECIATES U.S. AID THROUGH MULTI LATERAL CHANNELS SUCH AS WORLD BANK AND UNDP, BUT IT HOPED FOR EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT IN BILATERAL FORM TOO. HIS INTERLOCUTORS PRESSED POINT THAT BURUNDI SHOULD NOT SO CONSISTENTLY END UP VOTING AGAINST U.S. POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, ESPECIALLY ON SUCH ISSUES AS KOREA, ABOUT MERITS OF WHICH BURUNDI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COULD KNOW LITTLE AND BE INTERESTED EVEN LESS. NDUWAYO SAID BIMAZUBUTE WAS TENDING TO GREATER PRACTICALITY ON POLITICAL ISSUES AND TRYING TO AVOID ISSUES OF NO CONCERN TO BURUNDI. NDUWAYO HOPED THIS WOULD SHOW UP IN VOTING AND IN SUCH MATTERS AS STEERING CLEAR OF DC VERSUS LDC CONFRONTATIONS, WHERE BURUNDI SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT ONLY COOPERATION, NOT RPT NOT UNREALISTIC AND RHETORICAL RESOLUTIONS, WOULD BE USEFUL. HE ASKED ABOUT WASHINGTON REACTION TO OAU INTERVENTION ON APPOINTMENT OF

ASST SECRETARY DAVIS. I REMINDED HIM THAT ON FEB 25 I HAD GIVEN BIM ZUBUTE TEXT OF SECRETARY'S LETTER TO ETAKI, AND JAMES EMPHASIZED EXTREME DISTASTE IN WASHINGTON FOR AFRICAN MOVE. I POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH ALMOST NO ONE IN AFRICA, AND CERTAINLY NO ONE IN BURUNDI, HAD ANY IDEA OF WHAT HAD REALLY HAPPENED IN CHILE UNDER ALLENDE, HERE WAS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF OAU'S JUMPING EMOTIONALLY INTO AN ISSUE WHERE THE FACTS WERE CERTAINLY WIDELY DIFFERENT FROM THE COMMON MYTHOLOGY. NDUWAYO SAID HE WAS VERY SORRY FOR WHOLE AFFAIR.

3. HOUR TALK WITH BIHUTE ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS REVEALED THAT MAURICE TEMPELSMAN HAS RECENTLY WRITTEN LETTER TO BURUNDI GOVERNMENT PROPOSING THAT WOULD-BE MEMBERS OF NICKEL CONSORTIUM MEET IN BUJUMBURA IN APRIL. BIHUTE CLAIMED THAT PROBLEMS HAD BEEN WORKED OUT ON ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION AND NOTED THAT FRENCH GROUP OF MINERALS AND REFINING EXPERTS WOULD JOIN GROUP. HE ALSO SAID THAT UNDP HAS AGREED TO ADVANCE DOLS TWO MILLION FROM ITS NEXT FIVE YEAR TRANCHE (DOLS 18 MILLION) FOR BURUNDI TO FINANCE FEASIBILITY STUDIES, UNDER IBRD MANAGEMENT, OF INFRASTRUCTURE ASPECTS OF NICKEL PROJECT. THESE WILL TAKE 18 TO 24 MONTHS ON CHOICE OF BEST REFINERY PROCESS, HYDROELECTRIC FACILITIES, AND ROADS, AND WILL COMPLEMENT ADDITIONAL DRILLINGS STARTED BY UNDP MINERALS TEAM TO GET BETTER DETAILED CROSS SECTION OF ORE LODE. BIHUTE STRESSED THAT BURUNDI MUST AVOID LETTING NICKEL DEVELOPMENT BECOME ANOTHER POCKET OF MODERNITY IN BURUNDI, CUT OFF LIKE BUJUMBURA FROM BULK OF POPULATION. NICKEL INCOME WOULD HAVE TO BE ALLOCATED HEAVILY TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURE, WHICH AT PRESENT SUFFERED FROM ALMOST TOTAL LACK OF PLANNING AND OF DETERMINATION OF PRIORITIES. HE WOULD GIVE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO TEN YEAR PROGRAM FOR INSTALLATION OF FOOD STORAGE AND MARKETING SYSTEM THROUGHOUT BURUNDI TO SMOOTH OUT FOOD IMBALANCES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BOTH GEOGRAPHICALLY AND OVER PERIODS OF LOW OUTPUT. HE SAID IBRD WOULD PERHAPS JOIN PROJECT ONCE IT WAS UNDERWAY, BUT, SO FAR, ONLY GERMANS HAD SHOWN INTEREST IN FIRST STAGE. HIS COMMENT THAT SECOND DONOR WAS NEEDED AS FRG PARTNER WAS CLOSEST THAT BIHUTE CAME TO INDICATING WISH FOR AMERICAN AID. MARK

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